

DC Appropriations shall submit by January 2, 2002 a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and the Senate and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Government Reform of the House of Representatives detailing the awards in judgment rendered in the District of Columbia that were in excess of the cap imposed by prior appropriations acts in effect during the fiscal year when the work was performed, or when payment was requested for work previously performed, in actions brought against the District of Columbia Public Schools under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (20 U.S.C. §1400 et. seq.). Provided further, that such report shall include a comparison of the cause of actions and judgments rendered against public school districts of comparable demographics and population as the District.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 7, 2001. The purpose of this hearing will be to continue mark-up on the next Federal farm bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, November 7, 2001, at 2 p.m., to hold a nomination hearing.

Agenda

Nominees

Panel 1: John Marshall, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator (Management) of the United States Agency for International Development and Constance Newman, of Illinois, to be an Assistant Administrator (for Africa) of the United States Agency for International Development.

Panel 2: Cynthia Perry, of Texas, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years; Jose Fourquet, of New Jersey, to be United States Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank for a term of three years; and Jorge Arrizurieta, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President: I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, November 7, 2001, at 10 a.m., in Dirksen room 226, to consider the nominations of Joe L. Heaton, to

be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Clay D. Land, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia, Frederick J. Martone, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, Danny C. Reeves, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Julie A. Robinson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, and James Edward Rogan, of California, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Witnesses will include Senators DON NICKLES, MITCH MCCONNELL, JAMES INHOFE, JON KYL, SAM BROWNBACK, PAT ROBERTS, MAX CLELAND, JIM BUNNING, and ZELL MILLER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters on Wednesday, November 7, 2001, at 3:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, BUSINESS RIGHTS AND COMPETITION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Business Rights and Competition be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, November 7, 2001, at 2 p.m., in Dirksen 226.

Tentative witness list for "International Aviation Alliances: Market Turmoil and the Future of Airline Competition": Donald Carty, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Airlines; Leo Mullen, Chief Executive Officer, Delta Airlines; Richard Anderson, Chief Executive Officer, Northwest Airlines; Richard Branson, Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Atlantic Airlines; Roger Maynard, Director of Alliances and Strategy, British Airways; and Larry Kellner, President, Continental Airlines.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, PROLIFERATION AND FEDERAL SERVICES

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services be authorized to meet on Wednesday, November 7, 2001, at 2:30 p.m., to hold a hearing entitled "Current and Future Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation Threats."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, in a memorandum issued yesterday to Drug Enforcement Administration chief Asa Hutchinson, Attorney General Ashcroft overturned a 1998 decision by Attorney General Janet Reno that allowed for the use of controlled substances for physician assisted suicide.

Until June 5, 1998, everyone understood that assisted suicide was not a "legitimate medical purpose." On that date, Attorney General Janet Reno issued a letter carving out an exception for Oregon to use Federally-controlled substances for assisted suicide, a decision that overturned an earlier determination by the Drug Enforcement Administration and which was in direct conflict with 29 years of practice under the Controlled Substances Act.

Attorney General Ashcroft wrote that assisting in a suicide is not a "legitimate medical purpose" under federal law and determined that prescribing, dispensing, or administering federally controlled substances to assist suicide violates the Controlled Substances Act, regardless of whether State law authorizes or permits such conduct by practitioners.

This important decision restores the uniform national standard that federally-controlled substances can not be used for the purpose of assisted suicide by applying the law to all 50 states.

Federal law is clearly intended to prevent use of these drugs for lethal overdoses, and contains no exception for deliberate overdoses approved by a physician. The Controlled Substances Act requires that these substances can only be used for a "legitimate medical purpose" in the interest of "public health and safety". Assisted suicide can neither be counted as a "legitimate medical purpose" or in the interest of "public health and safety."

I have personally been a long, strong advocate of States' rights and the limited role of the Federal Government. This decision neither overturns or preempts any State legislation related to suicide. Instead, it clarifies that the dispensing of controlled substances for the purpose of assisted suicide is prohibited under longstanding federal law.

Because of Attorney General Reno's letter, for three years the federal government has been complicit in allowing the use of Federally controlled substances for the specific purpose of causing death—in my opinion, in violation of Federal law. There is no role for the Federal Government in providing assisted suicide. I compliment Attorney General Ashcroft's decision to return to the correct and only reasonable interpretation of the Controlled Substances Act. Federally controlled substances should be used for a "legitimate medical purpose" and not for assisted suicide.